

# General Crowder Believes Draft Could Be Used in Peace Time

## The Selective Service Idea

### General Crowder Suggests Its Application to Peace-Time Problems

IN "The Spirit of Selective Service" (Century) Major General E. H. Crowder, who was entrusted with the registration and mobilization of America's armies in the war, explains the workings of the machinery which put the selective service act into successful operation and suggests its utilization for peace-time problems.

General Crowder is convinced that no modern war can be carried on effectively under the volunteer system. He illustrates his point by drawing a contrast between the military experiences of England and those of the United States. By adhering to the volunteer system England disrupted her industrial system, supplied her armies insufficiently—and finally found herself compelled to adopt conscription, after all. The loss of life entailed by this grudging and piecemeal acceptance of the principle of universal service was almost incalculable. On the other hand, America, choosing conscription at the outset, developed her military strength with a rapidity which amazed friends and enemies alike and proved equal to the supreme test imposed by the German offensive in the spring of 1918, when American reinforcements proved the decisive factor in turning the tide of battle.

The draft in the Civil War was extremely unpopular and occasioned many serious riots. General Crowder shows how the selective service act was administered under much more just and democratic principles. The element of military control was reduced to a minimum, and the process of enrollment was made practically a function of citizenship. Moreover, conscription was applied evenly, and no one was allowed to buy exemption. Consequently universal military service, which was really a new principle in American life, was speedily popularized, and the mobilization of America's whole available man power was carried out with practically no open resistance and surprisingly little evasion. The author frequently takes occasion to express his hearty appreciation of the splendid service rendered by the local

draft boards and their medical and legal advisers.

General Crowder is a staunch advocate of universal military training as a permanent American institution. He quotes various historical instances to show that a citizenry trained in arms is a nation's best shield against foreign aggression and domestic tyranny. He even objects to volunteering as a means of recruiting soldiers in time of war, pointing out that the navy, the marine corps and the Emergency Fleet Corporation drained away many men who were needed for the army. The supply of available recruits became so low that voluntary enlistment was discontinued in the late summer of 1918.

The idea which selective service contributed to the American political world, in General Crowder's opinion, can be defined as the co-operation of state and Federal agencies, and their integration in the execution of great national policies, preserving local self-government, yet making possible uniform, consistent and efficient administration of national undertakings. He would like to see this idea tested in the relations of peace. He believes, for instance, in the establishment of a system of education which should be national in scope and uniformity, while full liberty of arranging details should be left to the individual states.

The author is also convinced that the administrative structure called into being by the draft might be profitably utilized for the adjustment of industrial disputes. He sketches out a rather elaborate scheme, embracing local, state and national councils of workmen and employers, which should meet and attempt to settle differences by peaceful discussion. For the arbitration of irreconcilable disputes he would set up boards of arbitration, created after the model of the state, local and national draft boards, and consisting of representatives of labor, capital and the public. It is doubtful whether the roots of industrial unrest can be eradicated by this or by any other scheme of more or less compulsory arbitration. But General Crowder's book is well worth reading; it is a discussion of the fundamental principles of selective service by a man who is better qualified than any one in America to understand them.

## Miser's Money

### Old Man's Hoard Plays Important Part in Novel by Eden Phillpotts

EDEN PHILLPOTTS lays the scene of his new novel, "Miser's Money" (Macmillan) in a region inevitably associated with Thomas Hardy, the bleak moor country of southwestern England.

However, the gloomy, devastating spiritual influence of the moorland is not visible in Mr. Phillpotts's characters, with one exception, old David Mortimer, who hoards all his pennies, hates women and excommunicates every one about him with outbursts of bitterness and cynicism. The other characters have their individual faults and virtues, but they are for the most part good people, blessed with kind hearts and simple minds and not capable of rising or falling to any great heights or depths of passion.

David Mortimer, although cordially disliked for his crabbed nature, exerts considerable influence upon his relatives and neighbors through the possession of stores of hidden wealth. He contrives to extend this influence after his death, for in his will he bequeaths all his property to his favorite nephew, Barry Worth, on the condition, however, that Barry shall never marry. Being already betrothed to a girl, Barry defies his uncle's injunction and marries her, allowing the property to pass into the possession of other members of the family. Eventually it turns out that the young man has succeeded in having his cake and eating it, too. Old David has left a considerable sum of money buried in places only known to his nephew. By a judicious use of this money Barry is able to acquire a valuable farm. Then he saves his soul by confessing the whole affair to his wife, giving up the money to some of the relatives and making over the farm to an old aunt, who promptly returns it to him.

Barry has a brother, James, who is made of considerably weaker and less aggressive stuff. He is in love with a girl, Annetta, who returns his love, but neither are strong enough to overcome or disregard the opposition of the girl's parents, who marry her off to a wealthier and more pretentious suitor, Mr. Charles Pascoe. James then proceeds to cherish a hopeless passion for Annetta, to collect memorials of her, to weep over the grave after she is dead and to devote himself to her child. Mr. Pascoe, by the way, is an excellent specimen of the pharisaical puritan, most often encountered in Anglo-Saxon countries, who combines an anxious solicitude for "the Lord's business" with a shrewd eye for his material interests and an inexhaustible capacity for self-appreciation. At times Mr. Pascoe seems a slightly overdone figure, although it is doubtful whether the idealization of his type can ever be exaggerated. But he is always entertaining, and supplies some of the best bits of humor in the novel. Witness his theory of prayer as a remedy for falling hair:

"No would not permit himself to pray that parish might restore his falling hair, although he knew that his aunt was doing so and felt no objection. It seemed a prayer that a good old aunt might pray, though hardly desirable, law, together with a list of all the international inland waterways of the world.

## Serious Comedy

### Mr. Robey's Humor Suffers From Strain

THE English music hall comedian George Robey has written a morose comedy entitled "My Rest Cure" (Stokes) which begins after this fashion:

"I'm sick of being funny. Fed up. Bored stiff. That's why I'm starting this diary. One doesn't have to be funny in a diary. One can be serious. It's a treat to me to be serious. In these pages I mean to reveal in being serious. Even solemn. I intend to have a perfect debauch of melancholy. Lord, what a relief it'll be!"

When an avowed wag starts in this mode it's an inevitable signal of a desperate effort to jar the reader to laughter. So Mr. Robey retails his misadventures at Little Sloum, where he went for his rest cure, in a brisk narrative, which tries valiantly to be funny and occasionally succeeds. However, the choppy method of driving in every obvious drollery until no one can doubt that it is intended to be quaintly laughable becomes intensely irritating. The comedian is lost in print. He needs music and grimaces to put over his legend—and his publishers have neglected to supply these accessories.



MAJOR GENERAL E. H. CROWDER, in "The Spirit of Selective Service," published by Century Company, points out the advantages of the draft over the volunteer system.

## A Hero Somewhat Too Perfect

### Cruel Pettiness of English Small Town Shown in "Coggin"

THERE is about the book "Coggin," by Ernest Oldmeadow (Century), a nineteenth century aroma that sets it apart from the usual modern novel. It takes us back to Old England and to mid-Victorian problems and personalities. An infant prodigy of humble origin, and not unlike the awfully good, clever and abused little boys in Dickens, makes a plucky struggle for an education in the midst of small-town class prejudices and religious intolerance.

Quite unconsciously, too, he alters the entire life of Mr. Redding, the rector and the one understanding member of the community. Mr. Oldmeadow ushers us into the unwholesome atmosphere of a small mid-Victorian English town and reacquaints us with some of the repressive and unsatisfactory institutions of that period, as, for instance, the snobbish grammar school and the cold and comfortable Baptist chapel. The atmosphere of Bulford is interpreted with such real feeling and the provincial folk are so convincingly portrayed as cruelly petty, and even vicious people, that the victim, little Coggin, is bound to be an appealing character. He is a hero with great genius and evidently no trace of original sin. At first, however, his sincere passion for learning and his patient endurance of all trials win much sympathy and it is only in the second half of the book that he becomes too saintly to evoke further interest.

In his characterizations, Mr. Oldmeadow employs two methods. There is either a complete metamorphosis, as in the case of the rector, George Placker, and Coggin's mother, or else the characters are kept on a dead level. The behavior of Harry Coggin,

for instance, is as unmitigated in its perfection as is his father's in its stupidity. After a certain stage, every character, with the possible exception of George Placker, becomes too dynamic or too static to ring true. The rector is perhaps the greatest disappointment. His emergence from a smug routine life into a sphere of new thought and new activities is interesting until the internal commotion is too much even for an outsider to bear.

Mr. Oldmeadow is at his best in depicting mob scenes. His description of the torchlight procession and ensuing riot in honor of the Robson Scholar is true psychology, and an excellent piece of dramatic writing. He catches all the excitement, danger and fascination of a great, unruly crowd, swayed by successive moods, now angry, now droll and always fickle; in the midst of the howling mob there are strongly individualized characters, such as the rector, Placker, itching for prominence and a good street brawl. The author is fully as able and amusing when he handles the crowd of boys who start to play Indian in Coggin's rag and bone yard and end by doing almost as much damage as the equivalent number of red men.

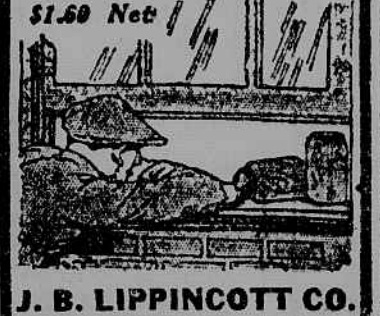
The latter part of the book is an impossible bit of reading to all but persons with a taste for religious fanaticism and a passion for the abjectly absolute. Somehow, the solitary pursuit of music and Latin in a studio with books and a piano, situated on the towpath of a canal, does not seem a sound or even ideal solution for the problems of young genius. As for the

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rector, the account of his apostasy and his tender but apostatized farewell to his flock are maddeningly prolonged; there are so many allusions to and lapses into the Latin language that it might as well be written in that tongue. In fact, the entire end of the book reads as if it were trying to compete with the Bible, instead of putting our minds at rest as to the future of Harry Coggin and the fate of the rector.

## Books Received

POEMS OF TENNYSON. Edited by Henry van Dyke. Published by Charles Scribner's Sons, New York.

A new edition of an anthology of Tennyson's poetry by a distinguished man of letters.

POEMS. By T. S. Eliot. Published by Alfred A. Knopf, New York.

Verse by an American who has been for some time a resident of London. The poems are characterized by keen observation and marked originality of thought and versification.

WIND AND BLUE WATER. By Laura Armistead Carter. Published by the Cornhill Company, Boston.

Poems of war and peace.

SONGS AND SONNETS. By Alida Chanler. Published by the Cornhill Company, Boston.

A little book of sentimental verse.

CHILL HOURS. By Helen Mackay. Published by Duffield & Co., New York.

Stories and sketches of life in France during the last two years.

ORDER. By Claude G. Washburn. Published by Duffield & Co., New York.

An amusing story based upon the arrival of a fortune seeker in a small middle Western town.

THE CROSS PULL. By Hal G. Everts. Published by Alfred A. Knopf, New York.

A tale of the Western forests, in which a mighty dog plays a leading role.

THE ROSE OF JERICHO. By Ruth Holt Boucicault. Published by G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York.

A story of the stage.

THE GARNET STORY BOOK. By Ada and Eleanor Skinner. Published by Duffield & Co., New York.

Stories for little children.

DIANA OF THE EPHESIANS. By Mrs. Desmond Humphreys. Published by the Frederick A. Stokes Company, New York.

A novel whose heroine is a colossal and self-confessed egotist.

THE PAGAN. By Gordon Arthur

Smith. Published by Charles Scribner's Sons, New York.

A volume of stories, mostly dealing with French life.

CELIA ONCE AGAIN. By Ethel Brunner. Published by the Macmillan Company, New York.

This book marks the reappearance of a heroine who has been already introduced in Miss Brunner's earlier novel, "Celia and Her Friends."

THE HERMIT OF FAR END. By Margaret Pedler. Published by the George H. Doran Company, New York.

The story of a recluse, tintured with mystery and romance.

LIGHTNING. By Frank Bacon. Published by Harper & Bros., New York.

A popular play put into the form of a novel.

PRESENT AND PAST BANKING IN MEXICO. By Walter Flavius McCabe. Published by Harper & Bros., New York.

The methods of Mexican banking explained for the benefit of exporters, importers and students of economics.

HOW TO AVOID LOSSES IN YOUR INVESTING. Published by the Finance Publishing Syndicate, New York.

A brief survey of the financial world and its pitfalls.

INTERNATIONAL WATERWAYS. By Paul Morgan Ogilvie. Published by the Macmillan Company, New York.

A study of navigation and maritime law, together with a list of all the international inland waterways of the world.

A TEXTBOOK OF FILING. By James N. McCord. Published by D. Appleton & Co., New York.

A complete analysis of present-day filing methods.

THE TANK CORPS. By Major Clough Williams-Ellis and A. Williams-Ellis. Published by George H. Doran Company, New York.

The history of the British Tank Corps, which contributed so much to the final victory on the Western front.

STUDIES IN TENNYSON. By Henry van Dyke. Published by Charles Scribner's Sons, New York.

A revised edition of Dr. van Dyke's well known work, "The Poetry of Tennyson."

POLLYOOLY DANCES. By Edgar Jepson. Published by Duffield & Co., New York.

A new "Pollyooly" book, in which the heroine has a new series of amusing adventures.



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ROBBINS OF BELGIUM. By Charlotte Kellogg. Published by Funk & Wagnalls Company, New York.

The story of the Belgian lace industry, and of the efforts of a few generous women to rehabilitate it.

EAST BY WEST. By A. J. Morrison. Published by the Four Seas Company, Boston.

A study of the development of man by commerce through forty centuries of time.

A GUIDE TO THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK. By Edward Haganan Hall. Published by the Laymen's Club of the Cathedral, New York.

A practical handbook for the visitor to the cathedral.

THE BIRTH OF THE NEXT NATION. By J. R. Cole. Published by the Aryan Publishing Company, Lancaster, Ohio.

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